

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01

CIAE-00 ERDA-05 COME-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7326

INFO USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1350

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECLA, SENV, PFOR, MX, UN

SUBJECT: ECLA-REGIONAL MEETING ON HABITAT, MEXICO CITY

1. STRONG LATIN OPTIMISM ABOUT REGIONAL HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

INSTITUTION (RHSI) MOTIVATED BY SEVERAL FACTORS:

-ESTABLISHMENT OF RHSI WOULD MAKE LATINS APPEAR

FORTHCOMING ON SUBJECT OF WORLDWIDE CONCERN

-RHSI OFFERS PROSPECT OF REGIONAL SUBSTANTIVE ACHIEVE-

MENT NOT ALWAYS THE RESULT OF OTHER REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

SMALL HIGH POWERED STAFF NOT TO EXCEED TWELVE PEOPLE

ENVISIONED.

-EFFECTIVE LATIN INSTITUTION MIGHT CORRAL ADDITIONAL

MULTINATIONAL AND BILATERAL SUPPORT ABOVE THE "FAIR SHARE"

FOR LATIN AMERICA IN A GLOBAL INSTITUTION.

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-RHSI COULD RECEIVE PUBLIC AND

PRIVATE EXPERTS FROM ANYWHERE AND MAKE THEM AVAILABLE AS REGIONAL STAFF ON SHORT TERM DETAIL TO MEMBER STATES. THIS WOULD LOWER PER COUNTRY COST OF UNDERUTILIZED REGULAR TOUR PERSONNEL AND WOULD "LAUNDER" NATIONALITY OF EXPERTS. IGLESIAS CALLS THIS A "BUS STOP" APPROACH.

-HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROBLEMS AND INSTITUTIONS SIMILAR THROUGHOUT REGION AND PROGRAM EFFORTS CAN BE MORE FOCUSED THAN WOULD BE POSSIBLE IN A GLOBAL INSTITUTION.

-INTERAMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK HAS INFORMALLY EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SUPPORTING A RHSI.

-RHSI WOULD BE A NEW INSTITUTION NOT INCORPORATING "OLD BAGGAGE" WHICH WOULD BE PART OF COMBINED GLOBAL INSTITUTION.

-REGIONAL WILLINGNESS TO BACK DOWN ON PITCH FOR GLOBAL CENTER AND UNEP DIRECTORSHIP PROVIDE LEVERAGE FOR FUTURE UN PLUM FOR LA. US DEL UNEQUIVOCALLY INFORMED THAT LATINS WILL GIVE UP UNEP DIRECTORSHIP AND FAVOR EUROPEAN OR OTHER.

2. PROBLEMS AS SEEN BY LATINS INCLUDE:

-CONCERN THAT RHSI UNDER ECLA HAVE LARGE DEGREE OF AUTONOMY WITH LOOSE NEW YORK CONNECTION.

-CARIBBEAN LOCATION WOULD BE MORE CENTRAL FOR EXTENSIVE TRAVEL ENVISIONED BY "BUS STOP" APPROACH.

-MEXICO MOST LIKELY TO FULFILL FINANCIAL COMMITMENT TO A CENTER LOCATED HERE.

3. COMMENT: LATIN INITIATIVE MAY SPUR OTHER REGIMES TO ACTION.

PRESSURE FOR IMMEDIATE G.A. DECISION ON LOCATION AND STRUCTURE OF GLOBAL INSTITUTION MAY BE LESSENER.

RHSI MIGHT PROVIDE A NEW DOOR FOR U.S.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WHICH WOULD BE MORE PALATABLE THAN DIRECT ARRANGEMENTS.

4. U.S. DEL HAS BEEN URGED TO SMILE WARMLY ON PROPOSAL FOR RHSI AND BELIEVES IN FACT THAT THIS IS THE MOST POSITIVE POSSIBLE OUTCOME OF THIS MEETING AND A SOUND PROGRAMMATIC INITIATIVE.

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